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#9 FORBIDDEN CRYSTAL
A SEXY VIXEN EMERGES NUDE FROM UNDER THE CLEAR MOONLIGHT. WHO IS SHE.....?
WHAT A LOVELY EVENING.

ISN'T THIS BETTER, THOUGH?

INSTEAD OF CONTIN-UOUS TALKING, MAYBE IT'S BETTER TO PUT ON SOME CLOTHES?

ALSO, ISN'T IT YOUR FAULT FOR SENDING ME TELEPATHIC MESSAGES WHILE I WAS HAPPILY BATHING.

IT FEELS NICE TO BE IMMERSED IN NATURE FROM TIME TO TIME.

BEING EXPOSED UNDER ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING ALL THE TIME, EVENTUALLY YOU FORGET THE RELAXING FEELING OF BASKING UNDER THE MOON-LIGHT.

THERE'S NO PART OF MY BODY THAT I AM EMBAR-RASSED TO SHOW ANYONE.

.....!

SQUEEZE.

MOREOVER ----

UNLIKE THAT CHILDISH BODY OF YOURS,

HEHE. YOU REALLY ARE JUST SO CUTE.

NOW, DON'T GET MAD.

HSSSS.

!

...TSALI ARE YOU GOING TO HAVE A SERI-OUS CONVER-SATION WITH ME OR NOT?

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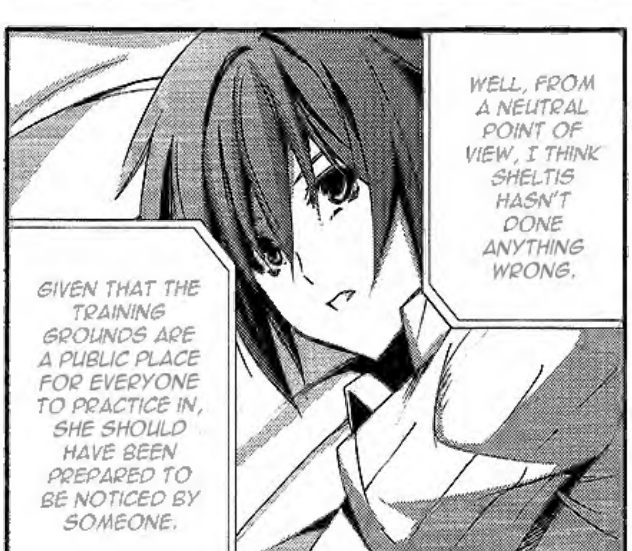
ISN'T IT BETTER TO CONCENTRATE ON YOUR PRAYERS FOR MAINTAINING HYOUKETSU KYOUKAI?
INSTEAD OF DEPLETING YOUR SHINRYOKU BY ADDING VOCALS TO YOUR TELEPATHIC MESSAGES,
... TELL ME WHY YOU'RE CONTACTING ME THROUGH TELEPATHY SO LATE AT NIGHT?
THERE WE GO, NOW BE GOOD AND KEEP IT TO TELEPATHY.
AS FOR THE HYOUKETSU KYOUKAI, I WOULD NEVER SLACK OFF.
WHOSE FAULT DID YOU THINK THAT WAS..?
.....!
IS THAT SO?
[THE CAGE OF FROZEN TIME]...
THE FORBIDDEN CRYSTAL.....

AH—I'M BEAT--.
Poof.

YOU... WERE WATCHING ME...
.....


WELL, FROM A NEUTRAL POINT OF VIEW, I THINK SHELTIS HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG.
GIVEN THAT THE TRAINING GROUNDS ARE A PUBLIC PLACE FOR EVERYONE TO PRACTICE IN, SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO BE NOTICED BY SOMEONE.

TRAINING IS OVER NOW.
I'M... GOING BACK FIRST TO REST.

IS THIS ABOUT MONICA?
IT FEELS LIKE I'VE DONE SOME-THING WRONG.

YOU HAVE A POINT THERE,
BUT IT WAS STILL WRONG OF ME TO SPY ON HER LIKE THAT.
FUFU, I AGREE WITH YOU ON THAT ACCOUNT.
THAT'S WHY I'M NOT GOING TO STOP YOU IF YOU'RE GOING TO APOLOGIZE TO HER.

MMM. I REALLY SHOULD JUST GO APOLOGIZE.

AFTER ALL SHE IS VERY NICE AND THE FIRST PERSON THAT APPROACHED AS WELL AS TALKED TO ME.
WHEN SHE AGREED TO TEAM UP WITH ME FOR THE DOUBLES BATTLE, IT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY------...

FROM THE WAY SHE WAS SPEAKING, IT'S NOT THAT SHE [DOESN'T WANT TO JOIN] BUT THAT SHE WAS [NOT ACCEPTED]---...

I MEAN, SHE'S NOT PARTICULARLY OUTSTANDING IN HER ABILITIES BUT, SHE'S NOT TERRIBLE EITHER.

BUT WHAT REALLY INTRIGUES ME IS WHY THIS GIRL HASN'T JOINED A SQUAD YET.

WHY IS THAT?

OKAY, I UNDERSTAND...

IN SHORT, I SHOULD JUST REST AND GO TO SLEEP FOR NOW-----

Bzzz, bzzz...

BUT DON'T RUSH IT AND SUDDENLY ASK HER. LET'S START BY PROPERLY APOLOGIZING TO HER FIRST TOMORROW.

RIGHT.

IN THE END, IF WE REALLY WANT TO KNOW, I GUESS WE HAVE TO GO ASK HER PERSONALLY.

SHELTIS, TIME FOR YOUR MISSION!!

FUTEKIWORLD SCANS

GAH!
I heard everything during the conversation you were having with Ilis earlier.
THAT'S SO UNDERHANDED OF YOU!!
MPM~~~~ MMMM~~~~.
ZZZZ
THUD
It's useless for you to pretend to sleep.
LEON... YOU DIDN'T GIVE ME THIS ROOM BECAUSE THERE'S SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT INSTALLED IN HERE TO MONITOR ME, RIGHT?
Well... Who knows?
Either way there are some urgent matters I need to discuss with you.
Now, hurry up and come to my room on the 287th floor.
.....

Ding!
OPENS
YOU GOT HERE FASTER THAN I THOUGHT
OH! I WONDER WHO KEPT RUSHING ME TO GET HERE I REALLY CAN'T STAND YOU.....
Annoyed
REALIZE

Seinenshi of the Fourth Rank Priestess, Leon Nestorijs Ova

OH, SYUN-REI REALLY IS TRYING HER BEST. YOU WERE EVEN ABLE TO PROPERLY GIVE A GREETING.
...MMM.
Fidget
Fidget
..... Good evening.
THIS IS.... YOU MUST BE SYUN-REI RIGHT? GOOD EVENING
FOURTH RANK PRIESTESS, SYUN-REI PAI-NUCCLENE
SURPRISE!
JOLT!
FOLLOW ME,
SHOCK!
TMP
TMP
TMP
ANYWAYS, BEFORE WE START TALKING, LET'S GO TO MY ROOM.
STRANGE TO BUMP INTO THE TWO OF YOU HERE AT THIS TIME OF THE NIGHT.
LEON AND SYUN-REI,
HUH?

AH, YMY.

..EH, EVEN SHELTIS IS HERE?

RIGHT NOW, WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO MY ROOM TO DISCUSS IT

THIS IS ABOUT A SECRET MISSION THAT WAS ASSIGNED BY THE QUEEN. SHELTIS AND I WILL BE THE ONES TO CARRY OUT THE MISSION.

WHY ARE YOU HERE? DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?

THAT'S RIGHT I WON'T BE SAYING ANYMORE ABOUT IT EITHER FROM HERE ON, I WILL ONLY BE PROCEEDING W TH SHELTIS.

IS THIS ABOUT THE MIS-S ON AT FLOATING ARCHIPEL-AGO?

FIFTH RANK PRIESTESS, YMY ELE SOUFFLEN.CTOLE

AH, LEON THAT IS.

.....

OH I SEE....

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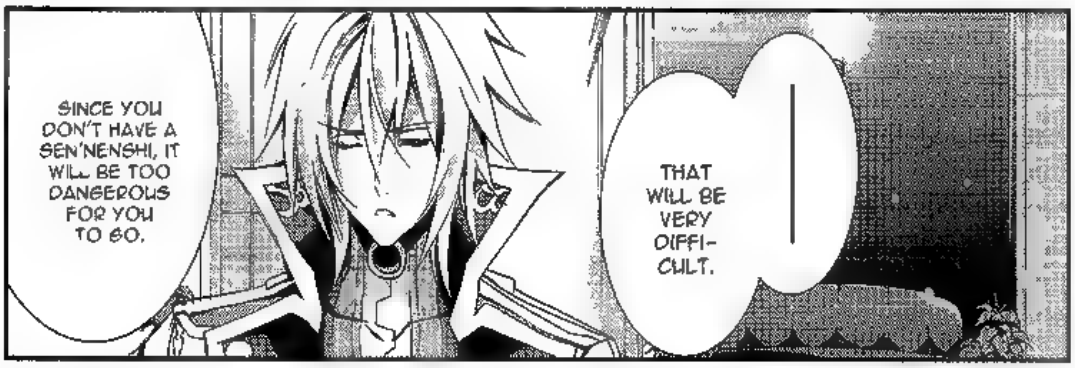
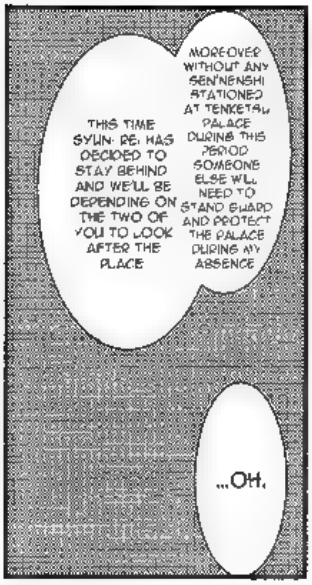
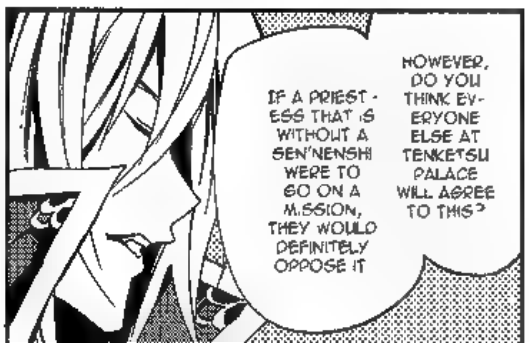
I WANT TO COME ALONG FOR THIS MISSION AS WELL...
...CAN I?


SINCE YOU DON'T HAVE A SEN'NENSHI, IT WILL BE TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO GO.
THAT WILL BE VERY DIFFI-CULT.


THIS TIME SYUN-RE HAS DECIDED TO STAY BEHIND AND WE'LL BE DEPENDING ON THE TWO OF YOU TO LOOK AFTER THE PLACE
MOREOVER WITHOUT ANY SEN'NENSHI STATIONED AT TENKETSU PALACE DURING THIS PERIOD SOMEONE ELSE WILL NEED TO STAND GUARD AND PROTECT THE PALACE DURING MY ABSENCE
...OH.

Silence.

SO THERE SHOULD BE NOTH-ING TO WORRY ABOUT...
BUT BOTH SHELTIS AND LEON WILL BE THERE, RIGHT?


IF A PRIEST-ESS THAT IS WITHOUT A SEN'NENSHI WERE TO GO ON A MISSION, THEY WOULD DEFINITELY OPPOSE IT
HOWEVER, DO YOU THINK EV-ERYONE ELSE AT TENKETSU PALACE WILL AGREE TO THIS?

BE -
BECAUSE...
YMY, WHAT'S WRONG?
SYLIN-REI... SHELTIS...
YOU TWO, WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE TWO OF YOU.....
ARE ACTUALLY TOUCHING EACH OTHER...

SFX: CRACKLE.

NO, I NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO TRY....

WHEN WE FOUND OUT THAT THE MATEKI IN MY BODY WAS REPEL-ING YMY, WE DION'T TRY IT WITH ANY OTHER PRIESTESS...

SHELTIS, TWO YEARS AGO YOU.. WHEN YOU WERE STILL A GUARD IN TENKETSU PALACE.

DID ELBERT RESONANCE OCCUR BETWEEN YOU AND ANY OF THE OTHER PRIESTESS?

...BE-CAUSE,

THIS IS JUST TOO UNFAIR.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ------?

YMY!!

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OF ALL THE PROFESSORS
WHY IS THE ONLY PROFESSOR THAT HAS A REAL LONG LASTING EFFECT WITH ME?
WAS BECAUSE
RYOKU IS
THEN YOU MEAN

I'M SORRY, EVERY-ONE.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE INTRUDED ON YOUR DEBRIEF-INGS OF THE MIS-SION.
I'LL BE HEADING BACK FIRST
DO YOUR BEST ON THE MIS-SION
SULKS
SHELTIS...
UMM. SYLIN-REI?
YAAY

BECAUSE I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MAKE HER FEEL BETTER, NO MATTER WHAT I SAY TO HER NOW
PLEASE...?
OKAY.
STEP
STEP
STEP
BUT... CAN WE DISCUSS THE MISSION FIRST?
SHELTIS, MY APOLOGIES...
CAN I ASK YOU TO KEEP YMY COMPANY RIGHT NOW...?
IF YOU DON'T MIND, THAT IS.

AREN'T WE GOING TO LEON'S ROOM?

MOREOVER, I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE SYLN-REI ALONE TO GO BACK TO HER ROOM BY HERSELF.

YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CONCEN- TRATE SINCE YOUR HEAD IS PROBABLY FILLED WITH THOUGHTS ABOUT YMY.

HEH, HEH. EVEN IF I WERE TO TAKE YOU TO MY ROOM NOW,

SIMPLY STATED IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE WE TALK. LET'S START.

ANYWAY, IT'S LATE AT NIGHT NOW,

THEY HAVE REALLY TIGHT SECURITY AT THE ENTRANCE OF THIS FLOOR, SO IT WOULD BE WAY EASIER TO TALK HERE.

THAT SEEMS PRETTY COMMON.

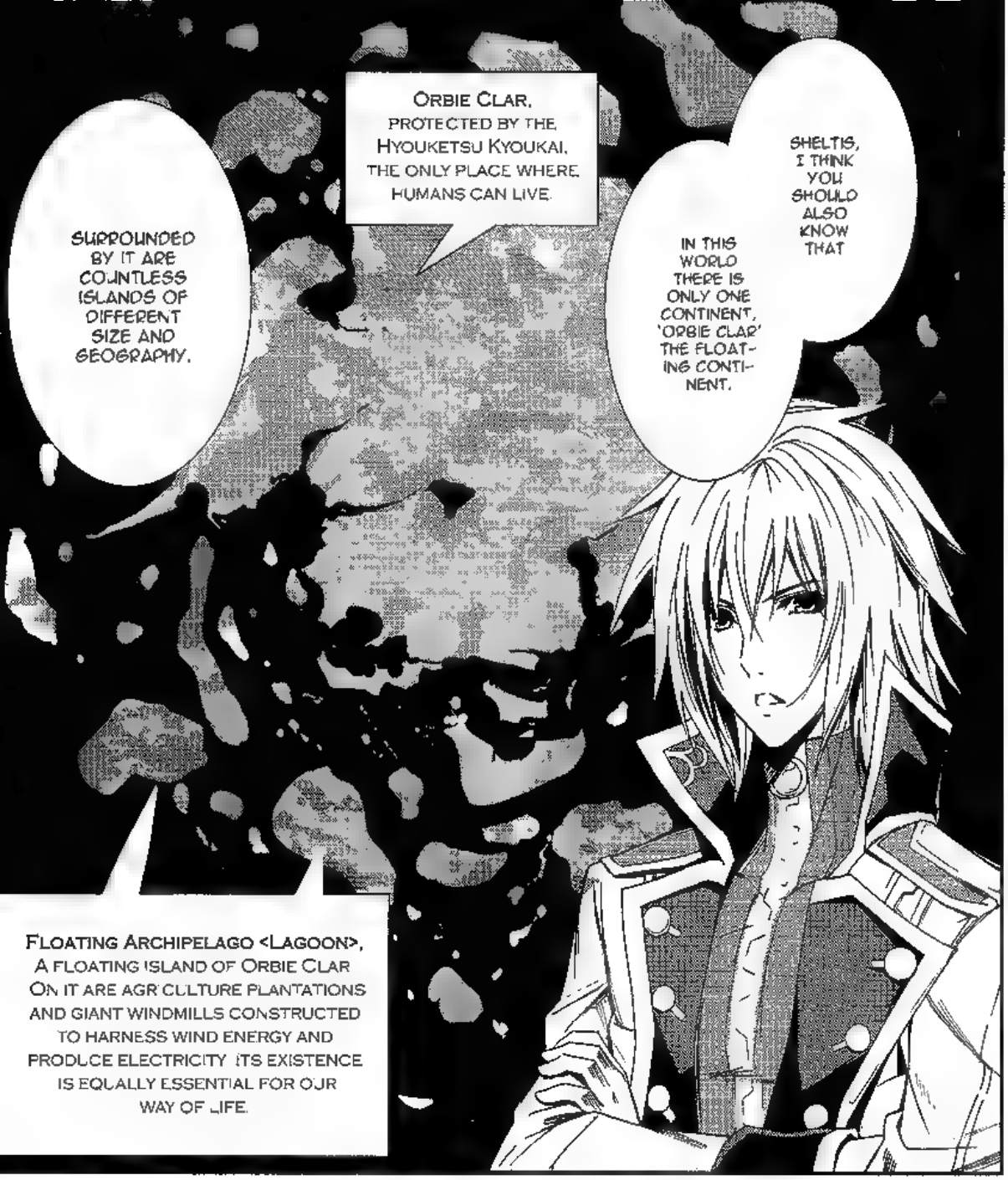
FOR EXAMPLE, MISSIONS INVOLVING EXPLOR- ING UN- CHARTED ISLANDS,

INVEST- IGATING THEIR GEO- LOGICAL MAKE-UP, OR THE ECOLOGY OF THE ISLAND IS KEY

SO, THE MISSION IS TO GO TO THAT ISLAND, RIGHT?

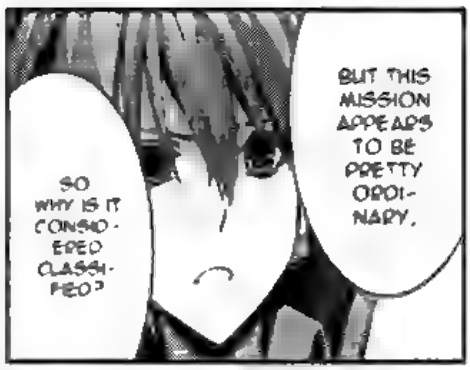
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.

SNDSCANS FUTERWORLD


SHELTIS, I THINK YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT
IN THIS WORLD THERE IS ONLY ONE CONTINENT, 'ORBIE CLAR' THE FLOATING CONTINENT.
ORBIE CLAR, PROTECTED BY THE HYOUKETSU KYOUKAI, THE ONLY PLACE WHERE HUMANS CAN LIVE.
SURROUNDED BY IT ARE COUNTLESS ISLANDS OF DIFFERENT SIZE AND GEOGRAPHY.
FLOATING ARCHIPELAGO <LAGOON>, A FLOATING ISLAND OF ORBIE CLAR ON IT ARE AGRICULTURE PLANTATIONS AND GIANT WINDMILLS CONSTRUCTED TO HARNESS WIND ENERGY AND PRODUCE ELECTRICITY. ITS EXISTENCE IS EQUALLY ESSENTIAL FOR OUR WAY OF LIFE.

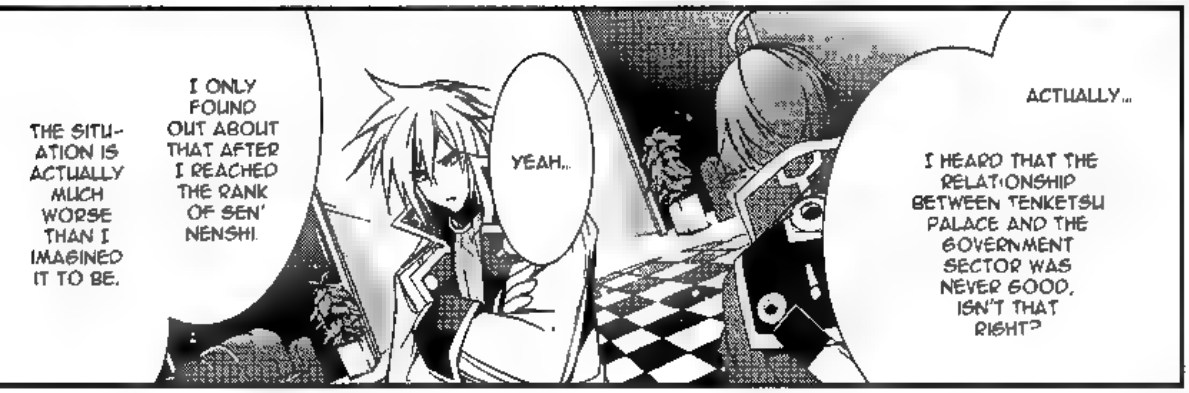
TO PUT IT IN MORE ACCURATE TERMS, IT WILL BE [A MISSION THAT WILL REQUIRE US TO TRAVEL TO FLOATING ARCHIPELAGO].
FIRST OFF, WE WILL NEED AN AIRCRAFT TO TRAVEL TO FLOATING ARCHIPELAGO.
DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS, IT LOOKS LIKE HUGE AMOUNTS OF ELECTRIC FAERIES HAVE APPEARED ALONG THE MAIN AVIATION ROUTES
OUR MISSION THIS TIME IS TO ELIMINATE THEM.

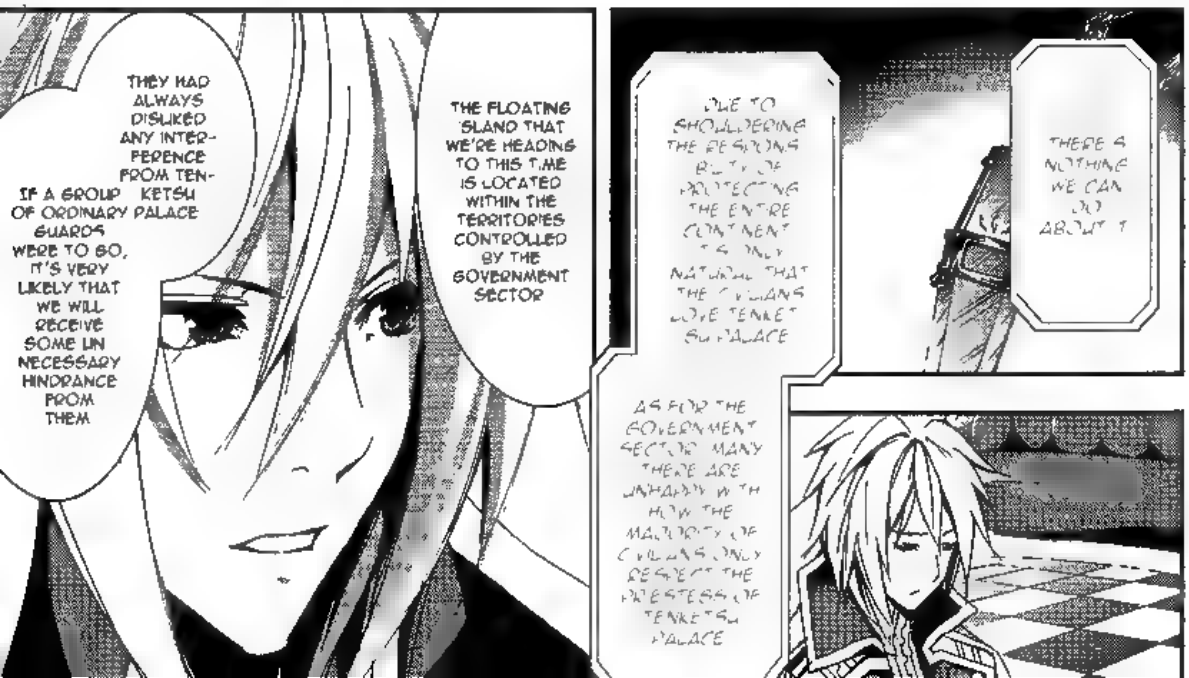
ELECTRIC FAERIES ARE


BUT THIS MISSION APPEARS TO BE PRETTY ORDI-NARY.
SO WHY IS IT CONSID-ERED CLASSI-FIED?

BECAUSE ON THIS OCCASION IT INVOLVES THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR
GOVERNMENT SECTOR?

THE QUEEN AND THE PRIESTESS WHO HOLD THE HIGHEST RIGHTS IN A TENKETSU PALACE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEFENCE AND PROTECTION OF THE CONTINENT
ON THE OTHER HAND THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR IS MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND REGULATES LEGISLATION AND LAW
IN THE LIGHT OF THE CONTINENT AND THE PROTECTION OF THE CITIZENS


THE SITUATION IS ACTUALLY MUCH WORSE THAN I IMAGINED IT TO BE.
I ONLY FOUND OUT ABOUT THAT AFTER I REACHED THE RANK OF SEN'NENSHI.
YEAH...
ACTUALLY...
I HEARD THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TENKETSU PALACE AND THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR WAS NEVER GOOD, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?


THEY HAD ALWAYS DISLIKED ANY INTERFERENCE FROM TENKETSU PALACE
IF A GROUP OF ORDINARY GUARDS WERE TO GO, IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT WE WILL RECEIVE SOME UNNECESSARY HINDRANCE FROM THEM
THE FLOATING ISLAND THAT WE'RE HEADING TO THIS TIME IS LOCATED WITHIN THE TERRITORIES CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR
DUE TO SHOULDERING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROTECTING THE ENTIRE CONTINENT, IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT THE CIVILIANS LOVE TENKETSU PALACE
AS FOR THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR, MANY THERE ARE UNHAPPY WITH HOW THE MAJORITY OF CIVILIANS ONLY RESPECT THE PRIESTESS OF TENKETSU PALACE
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT

WHILE THE SENNENSHI IS JUST THERE TO SUPERVISE AND LOOK OUT FOR THE USELESS NEW CADET

AS EXPECTED OF YOU, ILIS, YOU FIGURED IT OUT IMMEDIATELY.

THAT MAY HAPPEN IF A SQUAD OF ORDINARY GUARDS SENT THERE BUT IF THE PERSON WAS A USELESS SENNENSHI THE GUARDMENT WOULD DEFINITELY WANT TO DISCREET

AS FOR THE REASON TO BE ALONG THE LOW RANKING SHELTER DISGUISE AS A NEWBIE CADET'S MISSION

THAT'S T

THIS IS WHERE JEON FITS INTO THE PICTURE

SO WHEN DOES THE MISSION START?

NEXT WEEK? NEXT MONTH?

...FORGET IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYWAYS.

... WELL, I..

MY POSITION IN THIS IS...

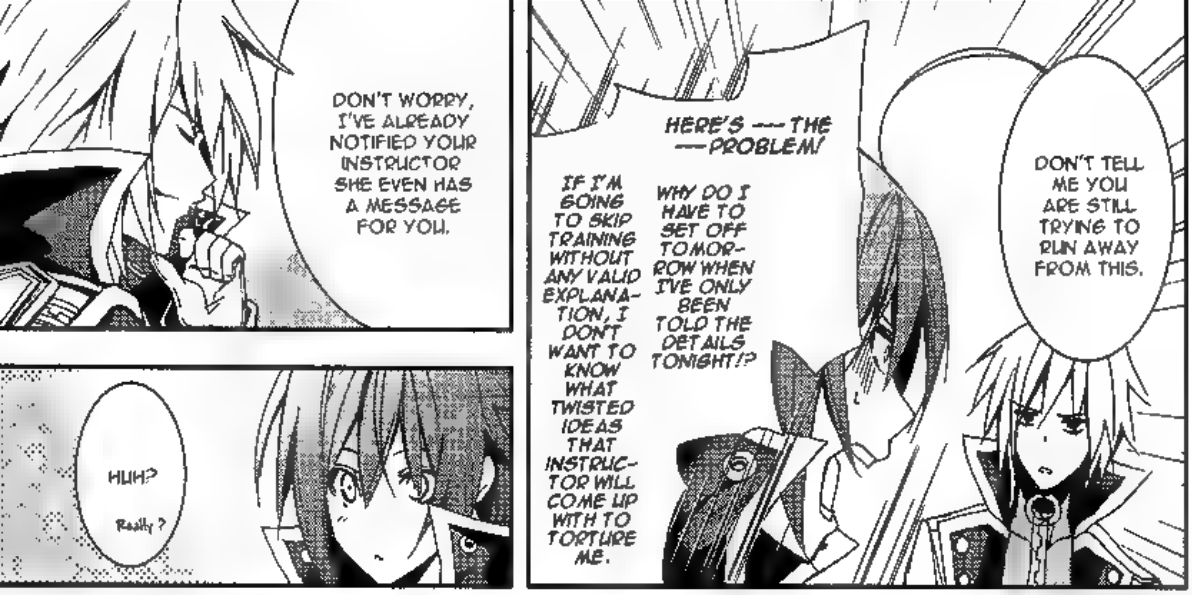
ALRIGHT THEN, I'M HEADING BACK TO SLEEP NOW.

I STILL HAVE TO WAKE UP EARLY TOMORROW FOR TRAINING.

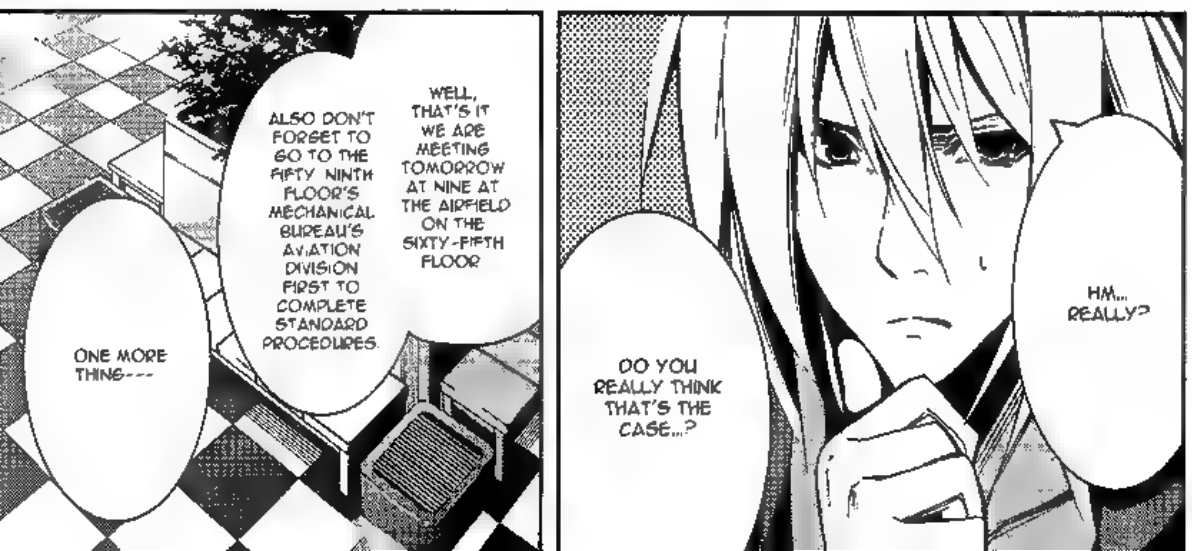
HEY, WAIT

TOMORROW!

FUTERWORLD SCANS


DON'T WORRY, I'VE ALREADY NOTIFIED YOUR INSTRUCTOR SHE EVEN HAS A MESSAGE FOR YOU.
HUH?
Really?
DON'T TELL ME YOU ARE STILL TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM THIS.
HERE'S --- THE ---PROBLEM!
IF I'M GOING TO SKIP TRAINING WITHOUT ANY VALID EXPLANATION, I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT TWISTED IDEAS THAT INSTRUCTOR WILL COME UP WITH TO TORTURE ME.
WHY DO I HAVE TO SET OFF TOMORROW WHEN I'VE ONLY BEEN TOLD THE DETAILS TONIGHT!?

SFX STREEETCH!


ONE MORE THING---
ALSO DON'T FORGET TO GO TO THE FIFTY NINTH FLOOR'S MECHANICAL BUREAU'S AVIATION DIVISION FIRST TO COMPLETE STANDARD PROCEDURES.
WELL, THAT'S IT WE ARE MEETING TOMORROW AT NINE AT THE AIRFIELD ON THE SIXTY-FIFTH FLOOR
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S THE CASE...?
HM... REALLY?

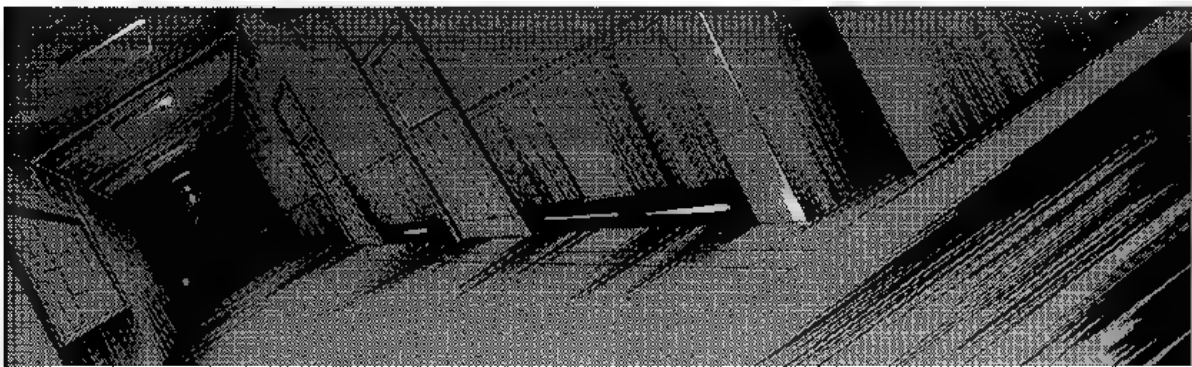
HMM... THAT'LL BE A BIT DIFFICULT.
ESPECIALLY SINCE I'VE ONLY RE-JOINED RECENTLY.
FIND ANOTHER PERSON?

IT'S ABOUT THE COMPOSITION OF THE TEAM.
TECHNICALLY SPEAKING, A SEN'NENSHI AND CADET CANNOT FORM A TWO MAN TEAM.
IF POSSIBLE, I HOPE YOU CAN FIND ANOTHER RELIABLE AND TRUSTWORTHY CADET TO JOIN THE MISSION.

I'LL SEE IF I CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING BEFORE TOMORROW.
GOT IT.
...DOESN'T MATTER. IF IT'S NOT POSSIBLE WE'LL JUST GO AS A PAIR AND GET THIS OVER WITH.
YOU'VE GOT A POINT THERE

I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU FOR THAT.
THANKS.

BUT I'LL ASK SYUN-REI IF SHE CAN LOOK AFTER YMY WHILE YOU'RE ON THE MISSION.
OKAY THIS DOESN'T REALLY COUNT AS REPAYING YOU A FAVOR.



MONICA?
...
TH-THAT IS, MONICA. I'M SOO------
CADET GUARD, MONICA ESPERANTO

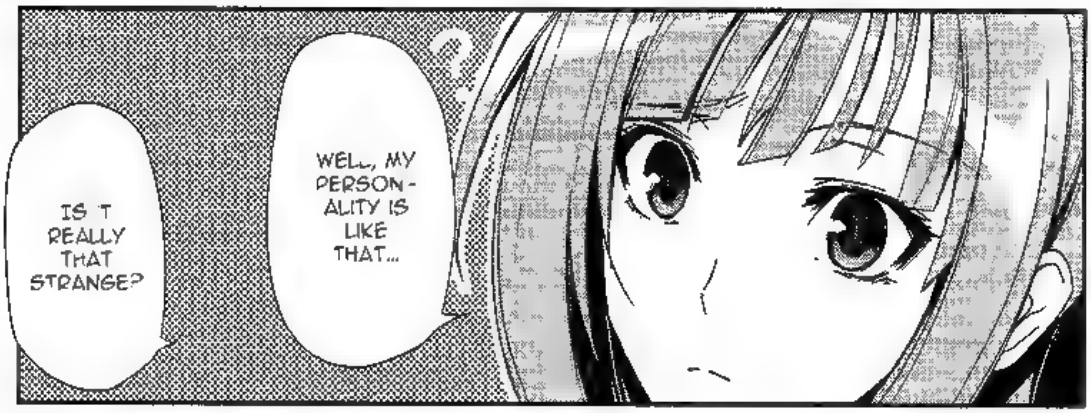
BUT, NOT

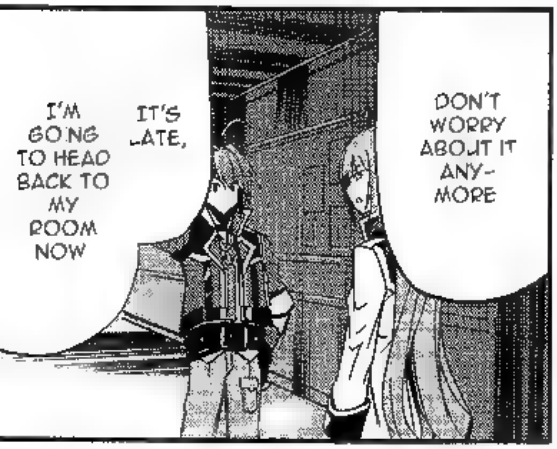
THANK YOU. I ACTUALLY LOST MY TEMPER AND THREW A TANTRUM AT YOU,

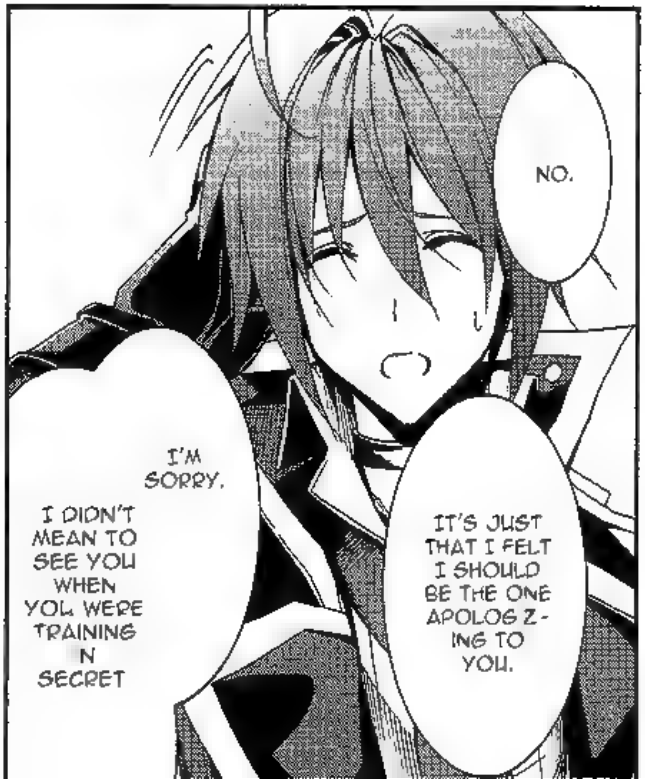
SO TENSE BETWEEN US

WHAT IS IT?
DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY TO MY ROOM JUST TO TELL ME THAT?

WELL, THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY.
SORRY FOR TAKING UP YOUR TIME.
?
AH, MONICA, WAIT!


WELL, MY PERSONALITY IS LIKE THAT...
IS IT REALLY THAT STRANGE?

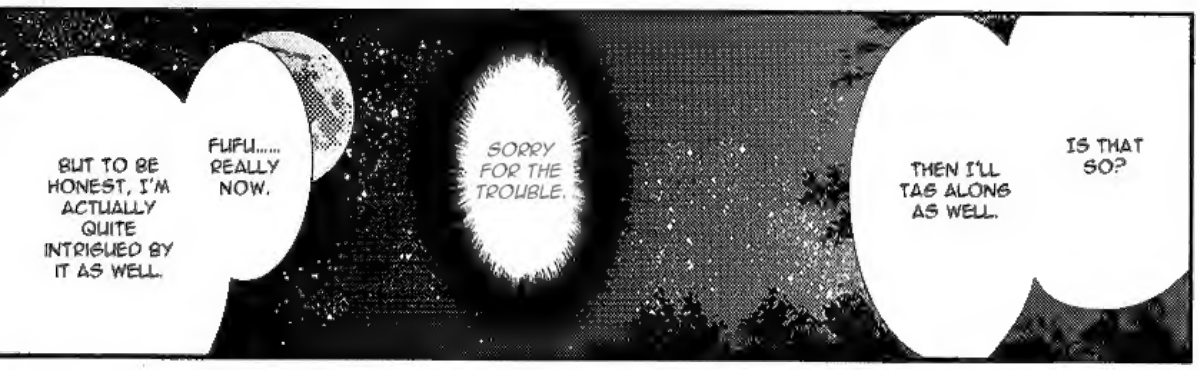

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT ANYMORE
IT'S LATE, I'M GOING TO HEAD BACK TO MY ROOM NOW


NO.
IT'S JUST THAT I FELT I SHOULD BE THE ONE APOLOGIZING TO YOU.
I'M SORRY.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SEE YOU WHEN YOU WERE TRAINING IN SECRET

AH.....!

ARE YOU TRAINING RIGHT NOW? CAN YOU STOP FOR JUST A MOMENT
AND LET ME FINISH WHAT I HAVE TO SAY?
HELLO, LEON?
SORRY, MONICA, BUT CAN YOU WAIT JUST A SEC?!
WH-WHAT IS IT? WHY ARE YOU YELLING ALL OF A SUDDEN?
AH AH AH!!
SHOCK!
Tilts head.
?
I'VE FOUND THE THIRD PERSON.
IT'S ABOUT THE MIS-SION!

FORBIDDEN CRYSTAL...
TURNS
WHAT A SURPRISE, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A WHILE UNTIL I HAVE TO HEAD DOWN TO THAT FLOATING ISLAND
...TRUE, BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR TAKES ANY NOTICE... I AGREE.


IS THAT SO?
THEN I'LL TAG ALONG AS WELL.
SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.
FUFU..... REALLY NOW.
BUT TO BE HONEST, I'M ACTUALLY QUITE INTRIGUED BY IT AS WELL.

MAKES IT VERY EXCITING,
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SHELTIS?

IT'S TIME TO PROCEED------.
???
??? I have no idea what you're talking about.
THE YOUNG MAN WHO HAD FELL INTO THE GARDEN OF CORRUPTED SONG,
Actually there is a mission tomorrow---.
BUT MANAGED TO RETURN TO THE FLOATING CONTINENT.

[THE CAGE OF FROZEN TIME]
THE DREAMS OF THE STILL SLUMBERING GARDEN OF CORRUPTED SONG, WHAT KIND OF REALITY WILL IT SHOW YOU?
Leon, Shellis and Monica!!
THE THREE OF THEM WILL BE STARTING THEIR MISSION AT FLOATING ARCHIPELAGO!!

#9 END

水神鏡男9
エデン